

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Application Number: SNC 070165

- Compile GIS and hard copy maps regarding the Upper San Joaquin watershed's rivers and streams including available information regarding habitat, water quality, water rights, threats, ongoing restoration, restoration opportunities, fire history, land use, etc.;
- Gather relevant reports and studies regarding the watershed's condition;
- Identify and contact scientists and planners from agencies, universities, and local organizations to participate in an expert focus group;
- Convene an expert focus group to review the maps and data and provide input regarding river and watershed health, data gaps, needs, and threats. The group will select existing or new indicators to evaluate the watershed's condition, threats and restoration opportunities to be used in the River Health Assessment;
- Provide the data, GIS maps, and hard copy maps, input from the expert focus group, and the selected indicators to the Upper San Joaquin River Stewardship Council, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust (preparing a Water Planning Project throughout the southern Sierra), and SNC;
- Attend and participate in the southern Sierra Water Planning Meetings being organized and convened by Sequoia Riverlands Trust;
- Draft the River Health Assessment Document that will include the gap analysis, indicator assessment, needs assessment, threat assessment, and watershed tool assessment and submit to SNC for review; and
- Finalize the River Health Assessment and disseminate the report to the local communities and appropriate agencies and organization.

None submitted.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Compile GIS and hard copy maps and report and study information	June 2008-August 2008
Attend and participate in Southern Sierra water planning project being convened by Sequoia Riverlands Trust	June 2008-May 2009
Synthesize data and maps to prepare for expert focus group meetings, provide information to Sequoia Riverlands Trust	September 2008
Select scientists and planners for expert focus group	September 2008
Convene expert focus group	September 2008 –November 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	November 2008
Provide the data, GIS maps, and hard copy maps, input from the expert focus group, and the selected indicators to the Upper San Joaquin River Stewardship Council, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and SNC	November 2008
Draft the River Health Assessment Document and submit to SNC for review and comments	December 2008-March 2009
Complete the River Health Assessment	April 2009-June 2009
Complete and submit 12-month progress report to SNC	May 2009
Final Report/Final Payment Request	July 2009

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
RSJ Staff	\$50,000
Payroll taxes	\$5,288
Workers Compensation	\$781
Materials and supplies	\$1,200
Telephone and internet	\$500
Cell phone service	\$500
Accounting	\$1,000
Printing	\$3,000
Travel	\$2,500
Dues, conferences, resource materials	\$500
PR/Fundraising	\$2,500
Misc.	\$2,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 69,769

**Amendment to the Revive the San Joaquin Strategic Opportunity Grant III
Submitted December 26, 2007.**

The purpose of this amendment is to provide an updated and expanded description of the project and the coordination efforts between partners and other organizations. Please note the new title "San Joaquin River Stewardship Partners Network," a name used by Revive the San Joaquin (RSJ) to represent a voluntary alliance between groups and stakeholders along the river. The network is aimed at bringing forward strategic partnerships to leverage local efforts to revive the river, and expand the scope of these efforts to a regional scale to ensure their success. The following paragraphs include a more detailed description of the project, coordination between partner groups, and program updates since the original submission in October 2007.

Expanded Description of Project

The project budget outlines expenditures for RSJ staff for capacity-building activities and programs, establishment of a community-based resource information system, and funding for educational equipment that will support environmental education in the watershed.

The San Joaquin River Community Resource Information System

Since the last submittal, the consultant providing software and services for the information system has allowed RSJ to rename the software application as the San Joaquin River Community Resource Information System (SJR-CRIS upper basin module). A grant for a separate system (main-branch module) has been proposed for the valley-portion of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. A common format for data and resource information in the upper basin and valley portions of the San Joaquin River will provide organizations, individuals, educational institutions, planners and decision-makers with the tools to analyze trends and connect with comprehensive information about the river from its headwaters to the delta.

The SJR-CRIS program will benefit the watershed assessment efforts by providing for coordination of data and information and tools for public information dissemination. Mapping geo-spatial boundaries for public lands, agency management areas, and other private or public conservation areas will allow for improved coordination on multi-jurisdictional projects. While data sets from the Millerton Area Watershed Assessment will be included in the program, RSJ will help coordinate a baseline resource assessment of the river and riparian habitat corridors to expand the capacity for water based investigations. Emerging regional efforts such as the San Joaquin River Monitoring Assessment Strategy project will also benefit from this coordinated approach to information management and watershed goal setting.

RSJ will provide coordination for partner groups in the upper watershed and facilitate meetings for the SJR-CRIS program implementation. Stewardship partners will collaborate to determine best practices for data management. Kier Associates will train

stewardship partner groups to upload data and information to the SJR-CRIS database, and provide ongoing consulting services for the duration of this contract. RSJ will coordinate to determine what information is posted on-line. Although many agencies maintain databases for their own use in management, they often do not have the time to post information online for public education. This system can act as a portal where the public can get continually updated information on both agency and community-based watershed and restoration efforts.

Coordination with Stewardship Partners

RSJ is further developing the San Joaquin River Stewardship Partners Network, a network of stakeholders representing various public and private groups throughout the Central Valley with broad interests in the river and restoration efforts. Partners have collaborated on grant proposals, planning efforts, and river stewardship activities that promote the mission of RSJ. Partner groups may join together for collaborative projects and grant proposals, but partner's names will not be represented unless permission is granted under a MOU. The network will play a significant role in developing capacity for the region as stewards of the river, as we progress through the restoration process and various water issues facing a revived San Joaquin River.

The developing Upper San Joaquin River Stewardship Council and Watershed Assessment (USJRSC & WA) is a grant project under the 2007 CALFED Watershed Grant Program administered through the CA DWR and CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Council will establish a stakeholder organization of groups that will create the mechanism and institution for establishing long-term assessment, planning, restoration, and management efforts on a sustainable basis for the upper basin. A more comprehensive Watershed Assessment will be prepared in preparation for a Protection and Enhancement Plan for the upper watershed region. The council's Watershed Assessment will be an expansion of the community-driven Millerton Area Watershed Coalition program that has been funded by CALFED. The council will establish a strong sense of ownership and expected outcomes, and will rely on participating stakeholder group collaborations to fulfill the goals of the assessment.

Collaborative projects are expected with the Sierra Resource Conservation District and the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District; both districts encompass the eastern portions of Fresno and Madera Counties and the greater drainage of the San Joaquin River Basin. Revive the San Joaquin hopes to further develop its San Joaquin River Agricultural Stewardship Program and expand funding and landowner stewardship training opportunities to farmers in the districts. Cooperation could also enhance landowner forums to improve local planning guidelines and ordinances that have specific impacts to the upper basin, such as the Fresno County Rangeland and Water Quality Guidelines and the Oak Woodland Guidelines.

Coordination with local homeowner groups, citizens groups, and public interest groups in the region will further capacity to involve volunteer and residents in the process of watershed assessment and resource compilation. Coordination with community groups